



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

School Committee Minutes 05-13-2003

The Arlington School Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 13, 2003
7:30 PM

Present: Suzanne Owayda, Chair
Paul Schlichtman, Vice Chair
Joani LaMachia, Secretary
Barbara Goodman
Sue Sheffler
Martin Thrope

Superintendent: Kay Donovan
Asst. Supt. Joanne Gurry
Chief Financial Officer: David Kale
Special Education Director Marilyn Bisbicos
Budget Analyst Janet Collins

Absent: Jeff Thielman

Call to order: 7:40 PM

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

SYSTEM-WIDE GOALS

Joani LaMachia, Co-chair of the system wide goals committee thanked everyone for their attendance. Joani explained the purpose of meeting is to review progress made to date by each subcommittee on the Arlington Public Schools District Goals and to hear reports from the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent on State mandates, federal mandates and the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) mandate.

Each subcommittee identified their goal, their Performance Objectives, and the progress made to date.

- Goal #1 the Goal Process presented by Jerry Carmody: To apply a systemic approach in establishing a district-wide goal setting procedure.

- Goal #2 Recruitment, Support, Quality of Teaching presented by Steve Carme: To recruit, support, and retain a quality staff.

- Goal # 3, Curriculum, K-12 presented by John Kent and Joanne Gurry: To publish a sequential K-12 curriculum, which aligns with the State Frameworks and encompasses a comprehensive, instruction, and assessment dosing.

- Goals #4 &5, Inclusive Schools and Restructure School Day were combined and presented by Alan Brown and Mike McCabe: To strengthen programs, services and opportunities for diverse learners and To restructure the school day for maximum student learning. Mr. McCabe requested that the restructure of the School Day be referred to the curriculum subcommittee so that both committees could work together on a final plan.

Mary Fischer presented the goals of the NCLB Act:

- The performance goals
- The four pillars of NCLB
- The NCLB testing requirements
- Report on adequate yearly progress
- Consolidate local application/completion dates and activities

Asst. Supt. Joanne Gurry reviewed some of the new State mandates:

- New Frameworks in history, instructional technology and English language learners
- CORI checks on every employee every three years

.. Reporting of goals and objectives in proven numbers
Asst. Supt. Gurry explained that although these mandates exist APS also identified five priorities of their own that will also fulfill some of the NCLB mandates.

Mr. Ronald Chaput member of the school council and a town meeting member suggested that these new mandates and requirements be brought to the attention of town meeting. Mr. Chaput explained that the majority of Town Meeting Members were not aware of the new mandates and the impact they have on the school budget.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

Supt. Donovan requested the approval of two warrants.

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Ms. Goodman it was unanimously
Voted to approve warrant # 03139 in the amount of \$246,384.71.

On a motion by Ms. LaMachia and seconded by Mr. Schlichtman it was
Voted to approve warrant # 03147 in the amount of \$406,581.16. 5-1 (Ms. Goodman abstain)

BUDGET

CFO David Kale reviewed the two proposed budgets for FY2004. The \$29,435,980.00 budget recommended by the Finance Committee without an override and the \$32,435,980.00 budget that includes a \$3.0 million add back with a successful override.

Mr. Kale also reviewed the FY2003-2004 School Budget revisions to the list of May 5, 2003. The new list of recommendations reflects the suggestions provided at the Budget Subcommittee meeting on May 12, 2003.

Ms. Owayda clarified that the additional money (\$600,000.00) in the school budget was not "found" but increased by the finance committee after the O'Neill formula was reapplied to the new estimates.

Vote on FY2004 Budget

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Ms. Goodman it was
Voted the adoption of the dual budgets FY2004 with the accompanying recommended revisions to the May 5, 2003 list. Roll Call 5-1 motion carries (Mr. Thrope-no) (With his no vote Mr. Thrope stated that it was primarily due to a difference of opinion. That the proposals that he made, to cut or reduce some administrative or support services in order to restore direct services to the classroom, were suggestions and an attempt at discussion to look beyond what the Superintendents proposed).

Mr. Schlichtman stated that he would amend the motion to reflect the seven recommendations voted on at the budget subcommittee meeting the previous evening.

Mr. Schlichtman amended the motion to delete funding in the column labeled May 2003 Reductions, and the column labeled \$2.950 Million Add Back, for the part time Special Education Assistant Director position.

Upon Mr. Thrope's statement that he did not feel it was necessary to repeat the defeated motions/votes of the previous evening, Mr. Schlichtman withdrew the amendment.

Mrs. Donovan reported that the school budget would not be presented to TM until after a couple of more meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Vote/June 24th time change

Ms. Owayda informed the Committee that Jim Hardy from MASC has been invited to speak at the June 24th School Committee meeting on the open meeting law. To accommodate Mr. Hardy's request to begin at 7:00 PM, Ms. Owayda recommended beginning the meeting at that time.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously
Voted to change the start time of the regular school committee meeting of June 24, 2003 from 7:30 to 7:00PM.

On a motion by Ms. LaMachia and seconded by Ms. Goodman it was unanimously
Voted to adjourn @ 10:40 PM.